
WHAT TO DO WHEN: YOU'VE GOT TO DO THE "CHILDREN'S SERMON"

Episode Description

We see it all the time. Good hearted people who volunteer (or are volunteered) to do "The Children's Time" during the adult worship service. But in the end, the children's message is too long, too grown-up, too lame, too distracting ... and one look at the kids let's you know that someone badly missed the target. Even some of the best children's sermon materials end up flopping. What's the deal? What are you going to do when you've got to do the children's sermon? In this episode, Drs. Kris and Bill provide some tips on what to do when. This week with Dr. Melanie Barton, author of *The ABC's of Children's Sermons*.

Episode Outline

Keys to Remember

1. Kid's are not miniature adults
2. Kid's don't face the kinds of issues adults face
3. Kid's have exceptionally limited vocabulary
4. Kid's don't have a grasp on "concepts"
5. The children's sermon is *not* the venue for preaching your sermon on a kid's level

Our interview with Dr. Melanie offers specifics about how to put together and deliver a great children's sermon.

Optimize Your Children's Sermon

1. Remember your adult service ... even your music and prayers ... are not kid-friendly or kid relevant.
2. The younger your congregation, the less likelihood the family has significant church experience and the less "church broke" the children are likely to be.
3. Schedule the children's time as early in the service as possible (presuming there's a kid's church outside of the adult worship space).
4. Don't rotate the children's sermon presenter.
5. Train your children's sermon presenter well. Have them train an apprentice.
6. Less is more. Keep it short.
7. Don't forget: the kids are technologically savvy and connected. Your presentations should reflect that.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some reasons why children's sermons may not be effective?
2. Brainstorm some sermon topics that are relevant to children.
3. What are some ways to make the children's sermon technologically relevant?
4. How could you arrange for kid sermon practice?